

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A recording medium recording a print control program causing a computer to execute the steps of:
when communications with a target printing device connected to a network fail, judging whether the IP address of said printing device has been changed or said printing device is powered off,
detecting a change in an IP address of said printing device when it is judged that the IP address of said printing device has been changed, and
after said change in the IP address is detected, searching for said printing device over the network, using information specific to said printing device.
2. (Original) The recording medium recording the print control program according to claim 1, wherein the information specific to said printing device is information of said printing device other than a MAC address, and includes at least one of a name, a specific ID, a former IP address, and a network port number of said printing device.
3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The recording medium recording the print control program according to claim 1, wherein the searching step includes the step of conducting a search by broadcasting when there is no DHCP server on the network.

5. (Original) The recording medium recording the print control program according to claim 1, further causing the computer to execute the step of notifying another device on the network of new information about said printing device when said printing device has been found in the searching step.

6. (Original) The recording medium recording the print control program according to claim 5, further causing the computer to execute the step of providing the notice again when the notifying step fails.

7. (Original) The recording medium recording the print control program according to claim 1, further causing the computer to execute the step of automatically updating printer port setting based on information obtained by performing the searching step or new information about said printing device transmitted from another device.

8. (Currently Amended) A printing device, comprising:
a detector detecting a change in an IP address,
a recorder recording a past IP address as specific information when said change in the IP address has been made, the past IP address being stored concurrently with a new IP address, and

a responder retrieving said recorded past IP address upon an inquiry from an external device and making a response.

9. (Currently Amended) A recording medium recording a print control program causing a computer to execute the steps of:

determining whether or not communications with a target printing device, connected to a network and preset to be available for the communications, are available,

judging whether the IP address of said printing device has been changed or said printing device is powered off,

when it is determined that the communications with said target printing device are unavailable because of a change in IP address, transmitting a command for obtaining information specific to said printing device on the network to search for said printing device, and

identifying an IP address of said printing device based on the information specific to said printing device included in a response to said command.

10. (Original) The recording medium recording the print control program according to claim 9, wherein setting for the communications with said printing device is updated with said identified IP address.

11. (Original) The recording medium recording the print control program according to claim 9, wherein information specific to said printing device stored in a memory is updated with the obtained information specific to said printing device.

12. (Original) The recording medium recording the print control program according to claim 9, wherein said command is transmitted when it is determined that there is no DHCP server on the network.

13. (Original) A method for print control, comprising the steps of:
detecting a change in an IP address of a printing device connected to a network, and

after said change in the IP address is detected, searching for said printing device over the network, using information specific to said printing device.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for controlling a printing device, comprising the steps of:

detecting a change in an IP address,
recording a past IP address as specific information when said change in the IP address has been made, and
retrieving said recorded past IP address upon an inquiry from an external device and making a response.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for print control, comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not communications with a printing device, connected to a network and preset to be available for the communications, are available,
judging whether the IP address of said printing device has been changed or
said printing device is powered off,

when it is determined that the communications with said printing device are unavailable because of a change in IP address, transmitting a command for obtaining information specific to said printing device on the network to search for said printing device, and

identifying an IP address of said printing device based on the information specific to said printing device included in a response to said command.

16. (Previously Presented) The recording medium recording the print control program according to claim 1, wherein the computer that executes the program steps is configured to initiate print commands.